

SPRING EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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One Acts Bring Absurdist Theater to MBA

By Bennett Davidson
Staff Writer

MBA's senior theater classes produced three one-act plays last weekend. The plays were all in the absurdist genre and were, therefore, by their nature very interesting and bizarre short plays. MBA seniors Weston Cowden, Everitte Barbie, and Chase Altenbern directed the plays.

Weston's play, *Long Ago and Far Away*, was not only entertaining, but also had some peculiar twists to it. It opens up with the fabulous Jesse Colton and Harpeth Hall's Anna Rose Heyman sitting in a relatively empty apartment, out of which they are about to move, with a fireplace that does not work. Anna Rose becomes upset because she thinks she has understood something about the world and her life, but her husband (Jesse) only teases her and never takes her seriously.

He departs for their new apartment, and Anna Rose, now alone in the apartment, meets a guy (wonderfully played by Ben Gregory) who appears to her out of



Nick Heyden and his shorts

is appalling. One character, played by Jonathan Lundy, sincerely states that he would rather be a homosexual American than a heterosexual Bulgarian. One daughter is willing to prostitute herself for some American largesse. To lose a leg is a blessing, for then one need buy only one shoe. To have even a body part spend time in America would allow them to die with some contentment.

Then came Chase's directorial effort, *The Bald Soprano*. This play was comical and absurd and had the audience doing double takes the entire time. Whitney Edwards and Alex Martin play a simple British couple who live in a simple British house with a skimpily-dressed maid (Jennie Stumpf) and a grandfather clock that chimes an absurd number of times. Another couple, played by the hilarious Garrett Anglin and Alex McNamara, enter the room to socialize with Martin and Edwards. One of the funniest moments comes when Garrett Anglin and Alex McNamara forget that they know each other and have to reconfigure their relationship. Then a fireman, played by the awesomely funny Nick Heyden, enters to tell some ridiculous stories. The play starts to make no sense (on purpose)

MBA Students Code Winning Program

By Bill Compton
Math Teacher

Each team had to explain to three different sets of judges how their program worked technically, how it was developed,

Three MBA students went to Memphis during the last weekend in April to participate in the University of Memphis Programming Challenge. Volunteering for the competition were Krzysztof Zienkiewicz (coding), Andrew Snow (graphical design), and Alec Martin (documentation and presentation).



Bringing home the hardware

The challenge was to create, design, code, and present an original arcade-type game. Krzysztof, Andrew, and Alec worked for four weeks in April, creating a game called *Tokyo Adventure*. It had approximately 1500 original lines of code.

There were 31 teams in the competition at the University of Memphis on Saturday, April 28th, and the teams were divided into three groups: novices, intermediate programmers, and advanced programmers.

and why the judges should market their game.

MBA competed with 17 other teams in the intermediate division. There were four categories of awards given out in each division. MBA placed first in originality, second in technical merit, second in presentation, and third in teamwork.

More importantly, MBA's game program was judged the best overall in the intermediate division.

nowhere. He is someone who has lived in this same apartment before. The play's ending was confusing but exciting, because Anna Rose changes her identity at the last minute and decides to stay and live in her old apartment! From this play one can readily see how thin the curtain is which separates reality from imagination. Where we are is where we think we are. Time and space are a function of the mind, which provides our reality.

Everitte brought his trademark humor to his play, *Bulgarian Rhapsody*. This play is a comedy similar to the popular film *Borat*, and it had this reviewer rolling in laughter. Carolyn Murdock plays an old Bulgarian with ratty hair and a snappy attitude. She waits eagerly along with Jonathon Lundy, William Emfinger, Brian Hughes, and some others for their American cousin (Jeff Eberle) to come and visit them. The Bulgarians are all very poor, and they hope, in vain as it turns out, that their cousin will provide some financial relief. They are disappointed when they find out that their cousin has no money, but in the end they attempt to cut off parts of their bodies to give to the American cousin to take back to America. At least in this way, some part of them can escape the despair of their poverty. Even though humorously portrayed, their poverty is abject, and the lack of shame it brings about



At least we don't live in Romania!

at the end, and I was unsure why I was laughing so much, which illustrates the point of the absurdist plays...there is no obvious point, and you don't always know why you laugh or, on the other hand, why you feel uncomfortable. *The Bald Soprano*, though, does seem to suggest that we can live with someone for years and still not really see or know him.

This year's one-acts were a great success, and I want to congratulate Weston, Everitte, and Chase for a job well done. Also, I wish to encourage all you guys out there who have never seen an MBA play to go and see one soon. So much effort goes into these productions. The plays are free for students and are put on for you, so go be entertained!



THE BELL RINGER

Alec McGuffey
Editor-in-Chief

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Jeff Eberle and Andrew Gibbs, *Sports*
Jay Milam, *News*
Chase Altenbern and Scott Schwartz, *Features*
Kevin Thomas, *Entertainment*
Stockton Beveridge, *Business Manager*
Taylor Smyth, *Assistant Business Manager*

Mr. Anderson Gaither, Faculty Advisor
Mrs. Anne Christeson, Faculty Advisor

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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MBA Must Remain Diligent

Alec McGuffey
Editor-in-Chief

On April 16, our nation came to a halt as news of the killing spree at Virginia Tech, which left 33 dead, stunned every person in the country. The shooting was more than twice as deadly as the Columbine massacre, which shocked the world in 1999. It is difficult to consider the possibility that something as unexpected and seemingly unpreventable as the Virginia Tech shootings could occur much closer to home. The recent events in Virginia, however, raise such a question: what can Montgomery Bell Academy do as a community to root out the possibility of something like this ever occurring on our campus?

The recent shootings remind us that such a tragedy can occur anytime and anywhere. Who could possibly predict that a quiet, South Korean immigrant would suddenly snap and murder over two dozen of his fellow students? We are obviously unable to predict that something of this magnitude will transpire. We are even more incapable of preventing a madman from murdering others if he decides he is willing to lose his life to make a "point." Once such a massacre begins, there is no way to stop it peacefully.

One precaution MBA can take is to pay more attention to the small, seemingly trivial, infractions that occur on campus. Obviously, I am not referring to tucking in shirts, wearing ankle socks, or chewing gum. What I am addressing are the two series of incidents that have occurred on campus starting last spring. In the middle of the 2005-2006 school year, several laptops began

to disappear across campus. The perpetrator was not caught and, subsequently, computers have begun disappearing again this year. While encouraging students to leave laptops in well-monitored areas is a step in the right direction, I don't believe this will eliminate the problem; there will always be someone who forgets to lock up his laptop because he is late for a class. I will not pretend to know exactly what should be done to deal with this situation, but it is obvious that MBA must take a much more proactive position in catching the thief rather than a purely defensive one.

Another event of concern has been the appearance of a strange man on campus since early this year. Everyone has heard the story: he approaches students asking for money or a ride to his car. While he may seem harmless enough, this should not be taken lightly. After all, the Korean youth at Virginia Tech seemed harmless enough, at least until he started killing people. Perhaps MBA should have a police officer on standby in case such a person enters campus again. In fact, it probably would have been a good idea to have an officer constantly near campus during the several weeks in which the man made recurring appearances. This week's lockdown drill was not only excellent for the practice it provided, but it served further as a reminder that tragedies can happen on any campus.

While the previous examples may seem unimportant or trivial, these are the kinds of things MBA must prevent in their early stages before they can

mutate into more dangerous criminal activities. If we allow random people to wander campus without asking them their business, others may discover this and approach our campus as a venue for whatever illegal activities they have planned.

I don't condone following the steps that many public schools have taken in the wake of the Columbine tragedy, i.e. metal detectors and police officers in every building. After all, MBA does a great job of preventing potential criminals from attending the school (minus the laptop thief, of course). All I suggest is that we must more actively prevent seemingly minor offenses from being successful so as not to give the impression that our school is lax in security. If we install a few security cameras, so be it. I for one am completely willing to have several cameras keeping a watchful eye on campus if it means I can bring my laptop to school and leave it outside while I go to lunch or assembly. MBA has done a good job in the past of keeping our school safe. The Virginia Tech incident just reminds us that we always have to be a few steps ahead of potential criminals.

One final thought: we should have a much more confidential and official channel for students who are having problems emotionally. A student should feel confident that he can discuss his fears or problems to a school counselor without fear that his remarks will be reported to a parent. MBA should set up a system that offers total secrecy for students who wish to confide in teachers or staff. In this fashion, students can lay down any of their burdens rather than letting them fester inside until they can no longer be contained, which was evidently what happened in the case of Virginia Tech.

If MBA can prevent minor offenses and instill trust in its students who want to confide personal problems to teachers, we will be on a much better path to precluding worse events from occurring in the future.

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Doctors Without Borders Visits MBA

By Jay Milam
News Editor

Doctors Without Borders, or Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) as it is known internationally, is an independent, international, medical, humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by epidemics, lack of health care, natural or man-made disasters, and armed conflict in more than 70 different countries. Dr. Darin Portnoy, President of MSF, spoke to the student body at assembly and stressed the importance of being aware of the lack of medical care in third world countries.

MSF was founded in 1971 and has sections in 19 countries. In affected areas, MSF runs hospitals, performs surgeries, battles epidemics, carries out vaccination programs, operates feeding centers, and offers mental health care. In the areas that need more long-term relief, MSF treats patients with HIV, tuberculosis, and sleeping sickness, just to name a few.

To start a project, MSF arrives at the chosen location and evaluates the medical, nutritional, and sanitary needs, the political environment, the security situation in the country, transportation facilities, and local capabilities. They never consider the country's political, economic, or religious

matters. When the team starts a project, it addresses eleven different areas, some of which are vaccination, training of local doctors, clean water, and mental health care. A coordination team and a country manager typically oversee the field operations from the capital city of the country where MSF is working. An average field project team has



A line for Meningitis vaccines

4 to 12 international volunteers along with around 200 local volunteers. When MSF considers it safe to leave its location, it turns the program over to other organizations, often local, that focus more specifically on long-term aid and reconstruction. On a more immediate basis, MSF is able to respond to disasters very quickly because of logistics centers placed all around the world, housing pre-packaged kits ready for use.

Today, MSF is very involved in the AIDS epidemic in Africa. Many people

in the affected countries do not have the resources to obtain affordable and effective treatment. MSF advocates to lower drug prices, stimulate research of new treatments, and overcome trade barriers preventing treatments from becoming available. Right now, MSF is treating meningitis outbreaks in Africa.

During his talk at MBA, Dr. Portnoy stressed how we need to become aware of suffering people all around the world and do our best to help. With just \$35, one can provide two meals a day to 200 children. Do your part and get involved!

Envirothon Snippet

Envirothon Nears the Top... Again

By Jesse Colton
Staff Writer

Recently, the Montgomery Bell Academy Nerds (MBAN) assembled a Carrsquad of five elite, environmentally-sound seniors for the Regional Envirothon. For those who remember from last year's epic Envirothon speech, the "A-team" consists of TJ "Domination" Hinton, Qushawn "Rumble" Clark, Jesse "The Tank" Colton, Nick "The Godfather" Heyden, and David "The Executioner" Carlson.

If you remember from last year, the dream team won regionals by just a few points in front of Hume Fogg, but since Hume Fogg did not even send a team this year, we had high hopes. Yet, as we returned home with a

second place plaque, we realized that our downfall was quite expected. Similar to King Leonidas from 300 or Maximus Decimus Meridius from *Gladiator*, all epic powerhouses have a tragic fall. Indeed, Napoleon had his Waterloo, Superman had his Kryptonite, and the MBA Envirothon team had a new Riverdale team.

The competition itself consists of five tests in areas of Forestry, Aquatics, Soils, Wildlife, and Special Problem. Naturally, David pillaged the village in Soils, and our overall score was in fact better than our score last year. I was involved in Special Problem, which was related to energy conservation and new fuel sources.

Hopefully Michael Nunan and Chumbum can lead the team next year to reign supreme once again.



Freshman Speech Competition: Year 4

By Seth Akers-Campbell
Staff Writer

After months of procrastinating and a late night of speech writing, on Tuesday March 6 and the following Thursday, freshmen across campus both dreaded and anxiously awaited the Freshman Speech Competition.

Tough competition in groups of ten comprised the opening round, where speeches were both repeated from memory and brilliantly improvised in classrooms during break all across campus. After thirteen semifinalists, who each won a \$50 Dick's Sporting Goods gift card, were declared, the Class of 2010 again worked hard in order to wake up and be prompt for the 7:00 A.M. start in Paschall Theater, where the semifinalists gave their speeches.

The speeches that followed were a remarkable combination of politics in the Middle East, medical ethics, the AIDS crisis in Africa, and honor. After a literally fiery

start by Pat Killian, the semifinals were underway. The speeches were brilliantly composed, but only three could advance to the finals at Monday's assembly to claim first place and a \$100 gift card to the Green Hills Mall.

Attentively the entire student body and faculty listened first to a superbly executed speech by Aaron Lutkowitz, who explained the importance of remembering the past to solve conflict in the Middle East. This was followed up by a speech offering a deeper meaning to honor by Dalton Fouts, who asked the question, "... why do we need an honor council?"

But only one speech could take home the \$250 Best Buy gift certificate, and that winner came in the third and final speech by Denzel Caldwell, who stressed the serious threat of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. Denzel's speech was characterized by great emotion, intensity, and theatrics and resulted in the winner receiving a well-deserved standing ovation.

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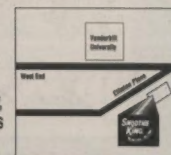


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Sophomore Scene

By Fadi Pulous
Staff Writer

The sophomore class is enjoying the last few weeks of its 10th-grade year. With exams just around the corner, everyone seems to be buckling down but still enjoying his time left as a sophomore. As I sporadically attend portions of j.v. baseball, varsity baseball, and track meets, several sophomores are seen supporting their classmates and other high school friends.

Academically, the class is doing quite well. Last minute tests and crazy labs are what make this "crunch-time" what it really is. Chemistry is by far the most difficult class for most of the students. Whether it be regular or honors, Dr. Neergaard or Cmdr. Carr, it seems to be the biggest challenge in terms of what is to be expected on the final exam and in terms of all the labs and problem sheets. Even Rahul Sastry seems disheveled over his most recent problem sheet on which he didn't do nearly as well as he usually does or expected to do. On the other hand, gentlemen such as Scott Ramsey and Crawford Standard seem to be flaunting their perfect homework grades. 55/55 seems to be a common sight for these two chemists. In other classes, everyone is preparing for the exams and looking forward to a great end of this academic year.

Athletically the Big Red sophomores have much to be proud of. In tennis, Richard Brunsting, Chris Anderson, and Leland Bandlew are having a great season, with Leland Bandlew posting his first varsity win. The j.v. and varsity soccer teams are playing fantastically. Both teams are undefeated, with the only blemish being a tie to a Mount Juliet Fire team that the j.v. went on to defeat in a rematch making their

overall record 7-0-1. Sophomores on the j.v. team are Will Overton, Reed Stanberry, Zach Brickner, Ryan King, Ian Preston, Logan Lechleiter, Will Andrews, Fadi Pulous, JB Hardin, and Robert McNeilly.

The varsity soccer team had a great win over a strong and physical Houston High School team from Memphis. Houston Oldham had an incredible goal to seal the win at 2-1, showing the soccer finesse of this year's sophomores. Others who had an incredible game were Max Jarrell, Brandon Dockery, and Robbie Alsentzer. Congrats to Will Overton for being moved to varsity for that game and also a great year to Michael Nunan and Matt Wieck who have performed sensationally this year.

The j.v. and varsity baseball teams have had an impressive year as well. Sophomores Davis Hunt, Andy Lustig, Matt Ractliffe, Spencer Wise, Wade Nelson, and Hooper Paty have contributed to the success of both teams.

Lacrosse is also doing very well. On j.v., we have Connor Shope, Scott Ramsey, Sam Lincoln, and a hoard of other sophomores, while on the varsity team, Bailey Brandon proudly represents the grade.

Track has had a very very successful year thus far. The team is undefeated with plenty of contribution from the sophomore class, including Patrick Crum, Leland Howe, Baker Mulherin, Karl Mecklenborg, Scott Bubis, and Barrett Jacques just to name a few.

All in all the class is looking forward to wrapping this year up and getting ready for junior year where college visits and college discussions become a big part of the junior schedule. Good luck to everyone on their exams, and hopefully it's not too early to say "have a good summer."

Junior Jargon

By Ian Snyder
Staff Writer

The junior class had a great finish to the third quarter and is having an even better start to the fourth quarter. The juniors are already looking toward the finish line for this year and eagerly anticipating summer. Spring sports have gotten off to a great start, and many of our teams are looking to expand their success and claim a state title.

In lacrosse the team has had some impressive wins and heart-breaking losses. The team boasts many juniors, including Sloan Sanders, Austin Branstetter, Swan Burrus, Mike Byrge, Carl Grote, Mac Berklacich, Charlie Christopherson, Chase Taylor, and Jay Milam. The lacrosse team had a close loss to rival MUS, going down by one goal in the final minutes of the game. They have also had impressive wins over out-of-state teams such as Lovett and St. Xavier.

The baseball team has also had a great season so far. Juniors Tee Stumb, Wilson Nealy, Frank Adelman, Jon Jon Eisen, Jas Rader, John Mishu, and Andrew Harris are a vital part of the team. The team has had some impressive wins over Davidson, Franklin, and Antioch. Although the team did suffer losses to BA and BGA, they were able to pull one win in each series with both schools. When asked what the baseball team looks to do for the rest of the season, junior Jon Jon Eisen replied, "We are looking to

stay consistent and win every game from now on."

The track team has had an overall dominant season this year. Juniors Ben Bartholomew, Preston Bailey, Robert Rolfe, Nathan Wade, Alfonza Knight, Tyler Ramsden, and Christian Wadde play important roles to help lead the team to its success. The track team has won every meet in which it has participated up until the momentous Doug Hall Relays. After betting double or nothing with rival BA after a rained out victory at the McCallie Mid-South meet, the team lost by a whopping one-half point. The team is extremely upset over this loss and ready to seek revenge in the state meet.

And now on to what everyone really wants to hear about: Prom. The MBA prom this year was an astounding success. The *Vegas* theme was very impressive and looked extremely authentic. The black lights in the theatre made white shirts and girl's nails glow. You can only imagine what the guys in white tuxedos looked like. There was great music provided by a talented DJ and everyone had a great time dancing and seeing each other dressed up. The most evident example of prom's success was how many people stayed until the dance ended, with many remaining to try and win the \$500 that was raffled off. Junior Daniel Givens was one of the lucky winners.

The junior class is ready to finish out the final quarter of this year and become seniors themselves next year. The only problem is the looming shadow of exams that stands between us and freedom.

German Exchange Students Visit MBA

By Pat Killian
Staff Writer

In recent years, MBA has been working hard to obtain a wide variety of international connections to provide exotic opportunities for its students and to bring exchange students to Tennessee. The products of a more recent such connection, with the Humboldt School in Wiesbaden, Germany, were seen in the last couple of weeks as MBA welcomed onto its campus four German exchange students: Phillip Ufer, Markus Kupfer, Paul Conradi, and Martin Goebert. With their respective hosts, Chris Fike, Alex Martin, Harding McCall, and Eric Vasilevskis, these students spent two weeks (March 30-April 17) going to school, seeing the sights of Tennessee, and learning a little about American life.

Among the trips taken by the hosts and guests over their stay were a night of line dancing at the Wildhorse Saloon, a drive down to the Jack Daniel's distillery and Tennessee walking horses in Lynchburg, a day at the Huntsville Space Center, and the Harpeth Hall Prom. Reportedly, the distillery was surprisingly

fun, prom "stunk," and the other trips were mildly enjoyable. However, the single most amazing experience these Germans had during their stay was a night at LaserQuest. Apparently, simple Southern pleasures having nothing on the thrills of running through a smoky arena blasting people with lasers.

The German students naturally visited MBA's German classes, where they got to laugh at the students' bad accents and enjoy *Essentag*, Food Day, for which the American students attempted to prepare German meals. They also gave presentations about their home, Wiesbaden, and about German music (including *Schalgermusik*, which, in the words of Paul, is like "country music, but worse" much, much worse). They also shared a couple of impressions of America with the classes. For one, American cities are astoundingly large; the pictures they had seen simply did not convey their enormity. Also, Paul, an avid skateboarder, commented that the skateboarding rules and their enforcement by police officers were very strict in America.

MBA was able to host these students thanks to its new membership in the German American Partnership Program

Continued on page 8



Beginning Signs of a Senior Slide

By Michael Anderson
Staff Writer

Official Name: *Maggiaronis Scorrevolis*

Common Names: Senior Slide, Senioritis, The Senior Slump

Symptoms:

- Just got into college
- No concern about anything

Signs that someone you know may have senioritis:

- You hear him constantly say, "I'll do it later".
- When asked if he studied for a test, he responds, "Nope, but I don't care."
- He uses the "I'm in college" excuse for why he did not do his work.
- He forgets he has homework.
- He forgets he has tests.
- He forgets he has quizzes.
- He forgets he has school.
- He sits and writes articles about senioritis to pass the time.

Estimated Onset and Length of Disease:

- Average is about two months for those who are accepted into college in April.
- Extreme cases are 6 months, which are seen in those rare cases of Early Acceptance and Early Decision students.
- Random times may occur for those with Rolling Admissions.

Possible Remedies:

Wait until the end of May. Then everything will be fine.

should never be models for emulation by anyone. The debilitation of senioritis, though, can not be easily or quickly remedied.



Up to no good

Case Study:

Weston Iler, David Carlson, William Emfinger, and I are all in astronomy. Every one of us is into the college of our choice. Weston is going to UT, David is going to Centre, William is going to either UT or Georgia Tech (he hasn't decided), and I am going to UVA.

The following case study does not make us proud, and slothful creatures

We have incredible difficulty doing our homework for Astronomy. Every assignment causes considerable procrastination to ensue. We started out the year well, but have gradually slumped into that blissful state of senioritis. I was the first to go. I got into UVA in December and immediately started to slide. Weston soon followed with his acceptance into

UT. Next, David started to slip, and William, ironically enough, was the last to go. Even David, the hardest-working fellow in our class, could not resist the grip of senioritis. We used to turn homework in a day early to get extra credit. Now we're lucky if we turn the homework in during the same week. The saddest part is that William Emfinger, the laziest of us all at the beginning of the year, turned in the homework first this past week. We used to get things done; now we struggle between complete sloth and conscientious application. It is not a balanced struggle. We can't use class time to do the work, and we know that no one is going to turn the homework in on time. We're just glad that we got 43 hits in the Shoot-the-Kamikaze-Monkey-Lab! (People who have Dr. Clark know what I'm talking about. Those who don't are missing out.)

I'm sure this ailment will continue until the end of May. We hope, of course, that the indisposition will end before next fall, for college profs may not be as sympathetic or work with us as patiently as our senior teachers. Our senior teachers are like nurses ministering to an ailing population, for they are so considerate, so understanding, and really forgiving. Wouldn't it be nice if senioritis were contagious to the faculty so that we would all be afflicted in the same manner?

Senior Surge Kills Senior Slide

Teachers with a Vengeance

By Scott Schwartz
Features Editor

The Senior Slide is commonly defined as the phenomenon whereby a senior suspends all intellectual passions and pursuits and cherishes a brilliant state of nothingness. Uninspired by his teachers, unmotivated because of his already "final" college decision, the student appears to simply "check out." Grades plummet, seniors sleep on benches in the quadrangle accepting demerits willingly, students are undeterred by threats of not being exempted, and the AP Exams warrant the same amount of preparation as the ISEE. As seniors enter their last mid-quarter, however, the Senior Slide strangely and unexpectedly has transformed into a new phenomenon: the Senior Surge.

The Senior Surge is defined as the increase of activity and demand, both through extra-curricular obligations and academic expectations, during the Spring. The senior slide does occur, but only in terms of grades. The Senior Surge applies for everything else. Although seniors are approaching the finish line of their brutally challenging MBA careers, their schedules are suddenly chock-full of "must-attend" events and end-of-the-year activity.

During this intense period, seniors attend more school events, support more school athletic teams, give speeches and sing songs for assemblies and school functions; basically, they become the face of the school. Other events like Prom, the Talent Show, and the One-Acts are not mandatory, but the sense of need to support other seniors and the school compels a senior to attend. All of these events and activities that seniors, whether mandatory or not, attend are extremely time-consuming.

Additionally, seniors worry about college plans and those decisions which take time and energy to try to finalize. Coupled with this massive increase in scheduled events is a workload that a plethora of seniors has described as "the hardest year of my MBA career." The seniors involved in Spring athletics face another challenge as they try to balance frequent athletic absences with these aforementioned community and academic demands.

The Senior Surge is both the reason for and the cure for the Senior Slide. As a disease, the Senior Surge takes up so much of Seniors' time, although most of the activities are fun, that a decline in grades or overall academic performance is inevitable. As a remedy, however, the Senior Surge ensures that seniors are not, however, blatantly "checking out."

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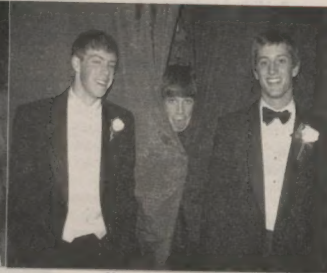
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Jesse gets defensive.



Not quite sure...



Prom in full swing



Gibbs acknowledges the camera.



From the front lines

Animals Among Us: Episode 4

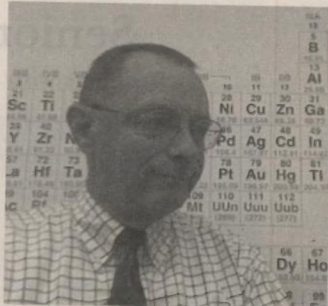
By Harrison Brown
Staff Writer

Pseudonym:
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Real Name:
Squamata Gekkonidae

The time has come again to root out an animal among us. While the investigation of a suspected Australian marsupial, Mr. Womack, failed due to lack of evidence, there have been significant developments in an unfolding mystery which may shock the public yet again, with the horrifying discovery of the truth behind an MBA faculty member. Reader discretion is advised, for this news is very tough to handle.

The revelation of chemistry teacher Dr. Jon Neergaard's true identity will shock all MBA students, faculty, and alumni. For what seems like hundreds of years, this man has been hiding his true identity as a gecko for far too long. One would think someone would have caught the warning signs before *The Bell Ringer's* investigation, given his long blank stares, wide openings of the mouth, or the eyes on the sides of his head, but apparently the investigative skills of the general public are no match for those of *The Bell Ringer's* chief animal spotter. Of course, what gave away his position was the easily detectable



Gecko

defense mechanisms of a gecko. Because geckos cannot attack larger predators, they must have a key defense mechanism to ensure their bodies and personal property are protected. We were alerted by the little girl at the zoo screaming because a gecko had just urinated all over her hands after a negative petting session, and this led us to look for Dr. Neergaard's defense mechanism.

After several days of scouting, we acquired our evidence as the predator, Commander Carr, stepped into Dr. Neergaard's lair to take some volumetric flasks. Not seeing, but sensing danger from the opposite side of the room, Dr. Neergaard let out a shrill cry of "NOOOOO NOOO NOOO NOOOOOOOO." Having ducked from the piercing shriek of this powerful



Gecko

defense, we raised our heads, believing the counterstrike was over. But an aftershock occurred as Dr. Neergaard rushed toward the predator screeching, "NO NO NO WHAT ARE YOU TAKINGGG!?!?!?" Unfortunately, all our research documents were destroyed in the attack and subsequent melee, so we had to set out and confirm our suspicions with witnesses.

Dr. Dickens came forward with some information on suspicious behavior, noting, "Yes, just the other day I saw him in his room filming himself playing the guitar in his chair. I didn't think anything of it until I looked closer and realized he wasn't wearing anything except his guitar....I think I would've immediately reported this, but the incident didn't disturb me overly much, seeing that I had just walked in on Mr. Spiegl

Coach McGugin threw a fit because a 45-pound, detached tail had made its way into his strawberry ice cream cup." We knew our investigation was close to completion when we heard Dr. Clements scream as Dr. Neergaard spilled his can of newly purchased crickets, and the hypothesis was conclusively proved when we found Drew Andrews crying because something had dumped over five feet of skin on his new Mercedes.

Clearly we must do something to protect ourselves from this scary beast, and others like it, lurking about the campus. Although MBA is not staffed with the proper animal control personnel, this investigation at least provides a starting point to spread awareness of this dangerous campus creature. Watch out, for anyone could be an animal among us....

watching the latest installment of *Feldspar Gone Wild* (2006)."

Ms. Susan Davenport gave us reports of Dr. Neergaard ravaging the ice cream box late at night. "We never would have caught him if he hadn't gotten caught in the freezer door once on his way out. We knew right away it was his species when



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MBA Track Team

By David Smith
Staff Writer

The 2007 MBA track team is off to a great start to this year and is poised to compete for a state title. Fresh off a dominating victory in this past weekend's O'Charley's City Championship, the Big Red track team can credit its early success to excellent depth, good team chemistry, and outstanding individual efforts.



Rich Tompkins hurdles to victory

Christian Waddey set the tone for the City Championships with his record-setting championship performance in the pole vault with his clearance of 15'1" on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Tyler Ramsden captured his second consecutive city championship in the 3200M run; Tyler would also go on to win the 800M dash and place second in the 1600 run on Friday. These wins convinced the meet officials that Tyler should receive the trophy signifying

his being the Outstanding Track Athlete at the meet.

Senior Rich Tompkins set the school record in the 300M hurdles with a time of 38.57. After his explosive run, Rich explained "I just felt crazy. I had this giddy sort of feeling. I knew I was going to break it."

MBA track has created early leads in every meet because of strong performances in field events. In the Highland Games, junior thrower Ben Bartholomew won the Highland Game's Big Man award for his victories in the weight events, and Patrick Crum set a school record in the long jump with a leap of 22' 6 1/2" breaking a record

previously held since 1991. Both of these performances helped propel MBA to a victory over a strong Brentwood Academy squad.

At the Mid-South Championships in Chattanooga, MBA and Brentwood Academy battled in what turned out to be a two-team meet. Although the meet was cancelled with three events remaining because of lightning, the Big Red, because of strong efforts in the field events, won

the meet for just the second time in school history.

The following weekend, the battle between MBA and Brentwood Academy resumed at the Doug Hall Relays, where BA won the meet over MBA by one-half of a point. Despite the disappointing finish, the Big Red did run extremely well and set two school records: the team of E.J. Vinsang, William Davis, Nathan Wade, and Rich Tompkins set the Sprint Medley record, and the team of Rich Tompkins, E.J. Vinsang, and Carlton Baker set the school record in the Shuttle Hurdle relay.

As the track season nears the finish line, MBA and Brentwood Academy are stride for stride as they contend for the state championship. The exciting rivalry and competition inspire the members of the MBA track team to work together for a Region Championship. Support from MBA students could be pivotal if MBA is to take down BA at the Region Meet on Friday, May 15, at MBA. The Track Team would love to have your support.

there have been few meets with a freshman competition included, some freshmen have worked their way onto the varsity level of competition.

Distance runner Wiley Hunt is a very strong performer who won the 1600 against Ensworth, CPA, and East Literature. Michael Seitz, a middle distance runner, turned in a solid performance in the Highland Games in the 4x800. Michael and sprinter Tee Griscom are contributors in the high jump.

The surprisingly large group of throwers this year also has had a good year thus far. In the shot put Will Campbell, Andrew Phillips, and Austin Locke have done a great job competing at the varsity level, and discus throwers Austin Locke, Will Campbell, and Alexander Hornbuckle have turned in solid performances as well.

With the state championship approaching fast, the freshmen hope to dominate the competition and continue on to be major contributors to the varsity track team in years to come.

Freshman Track

By Neil Ryan
Staff Writer

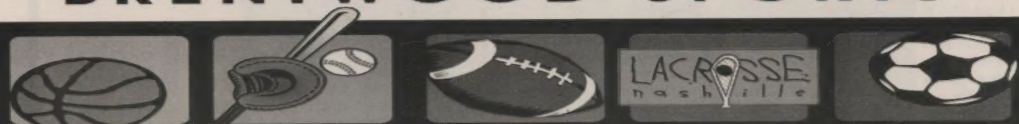
The freshman track team has enjoyed a solid season thus far. The freshmen have their track meets in conjunction with the varsity, and though

Exchange Students

Continued from page 4

(GAPP) and the work of Mr. Jonathon Sawyer, Mr. Gioia, Mr. Coverstone, Mrs. Mattison, and, at the Humboldt School, Mr. Wilhelm Theis. The idea of the exchange is for MBA to send students back to Germany in the summer, but sadly, due to lack of participation and various conflicts, a group will not be sent this summer. Hopes are still high, though, for summer 2008. Once again, thanks to the school for providing such amazing opportunities to its faculty, students, and community.

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An Interview with Alex Darsinos

By Andrew Gibbs
Sports Editor

Alex Darsinos is a junior at MBA, putatively the best soccer player MBA has had.

Q: When did you start playing soccer? Do you remember the first time you touched a soccer ball?

A: I started playing a few months before I turned 4 in a summer league at YMCA. I don't remember the first time I touched a ball.

Q: Has the game always come fairly easily to you?

A: What gave me the advantage from when I was very little was my drive and determination. I practiced all the time and that allowed me to have a slight edge over everyone else, even when I was very little. But my sisters tell me that my first season playing soccer was sort of an embarrassment, because I had no clue what to do.

Q: What has been the toughest thing you have had to overcome in your career?

A: I am not quite sure. I have had many small things that have come in my way, such as height, but thankfully I have not had any long term injuries or adversities.

Q: How did you end up at MBA?

A: Before actually taking the standardized test to come to MBA, I never heard or seen MBA. My mom suggested that I should



On the field

try it out. So I did, and I ended up coming to MBA in the seventh grade.

Q: The soccer team has had a lot of success this year. To what do you attribute that success and how far can this team go?

A: I think our success is a mixture of skill, determination, and experience. We saw what our team could do last year when we forced CBHS into p.k.s, and most of the guys on the team played last year for MBA varsity.

Q: How does it feel knowing that you are a target for the other team every game?

A: I try not to let it affect my game, and I do see it as a compliment. But sometimes I have to adjust my style of play to benefit the team if I am being marked closely.

Q: What is going through your head as you dribble past a defender?

A: So many thoughts are going through my head. Before I receive the ball I usually try to come up with a quick trick I might try. As I receive the ball, I try to focus on form, and I start to think about what to do once I have beaten the player, such as where to find the open space.

Q: What is the most ridiculous move you have ever pulled off during a game?

A: I can not recall at the moment. But I remember this past February I was playing against a friend of mine in a scrimmage, and he dove in with his left foot, so I pulled the ball



Kicking the ball

behind me and beat him badly, but since it was a scrimmage I decided to toy with him, so when he tried to recover by sprinting hard at me I slipped the ball between his legs. I believe he tripped after that and everyone just died laughing.

Q: Do you have a player whom you see as a model?

A: It's hard to say... I have been told I play like Messi, but I personally don't see much resemblance. I

think I have my own style, and it works for me so I will stick to it.

Q: What are you plans for the future as far as your soccer career is concerned?

A: To be honest I have no clue. I am just going day by day and letting things unfold.

To the Lindsley Ruth Award and Its Recipients...



ROLL RED!!!

A Flavor of New Orleans in Nashville

By Daniel White
Staff Writer

One of the problems in Nashville's restaurant industry is the lack of superior seafood restaurants, unless fried catfish suits your palate. This is not surprising, since we are not a coastal city.

This deficiency, however, has been solved. Katrina evacuee John Chapman fled to Nashville from coastal Mississippi, leaving behind there his well known restaurant, Chappy's. Shortly after his arrival here, he converted an old paint shop into one of the nicest restaurants in Nashville. Chappy's on Church is located on Church Street directly across from the Church Street branch of the Post Office. It is not far from MBA and is very accessible.

Since many of their seafood dishes are prepared with a Cajun twist, one will never leave the table with an empty stomach. Dishes like gumbo, shrimp, scallops, and oysters are just prime examples of the delicious food served here. It is obvious that the cooks here have been taught by the best of Gulf Coast chefs. It is also evident with every bite that the kitchen

staff really cares that each plate is prepared and seasoned just right.

Max Webster, MBA junior, who left

the Gulf

Coast and

moved here

after Katrina

struck, was

living in

Biloxi at the

time and

dined at

Chappy's

many times

when it was

in Biloxi. He is a strong fan of the restaurant.

Max supports this reviewer's rave remarks

when he says, "My family and I have visited

Chappy's quite a few times since he opened

up here. One dish I really like is the baked

Trout Almondine. Anyone eating there

must order one of the cakes for dessert. They

are remarkable." Max continues, "The motif

is definitely Mardi Gras and New Orleans.

For instance, there is a wonderful vegetable

combo named Mardi Gras Vegetables,

consisting of purple cabbage, green pepper,

and yellow squash, the colors of Mardi Gras."

Max finds the entire atmosphere

festive and

very much of

New

Orleans. He

reports that

there is jazz

music, and

the private

dining

rooms are

each named

for a

different Mardi Gras parade. Max says, "Not

just your sense of taste will be satisfied; the

excitement of the place will perk up your

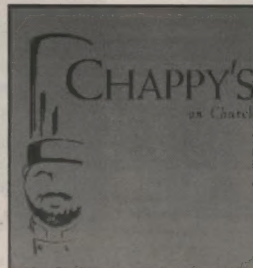
mind as well."

One of the many surprises at Chappy's is the bread and the four different selections of butter. The flavors of the butter are regular, strawberry, garlic, and my favorite, alligator butter.

The courteous wait staff gladly wraps the food that needs to be taken home into a beautiful aluminum foil swan—not

your average doggy-bag and something not found anywhere else in Nashville.

Chappy's on Church can be a little pricy, but lunchtime is the best time to go to avoid the rather steep dinner prices. No matter when you go, though, the price is right if you want an exciting gustatory experience with seafood and Cajun themes.



Chef Boyardee's Origins Emerge

Orman Examines New Kings of Leon

By Will Orman
Staff Writer

The beginning is promising. From the seven-minute opener "Knocked Up,"

this band is a brand new Kings Of Leon. This song relies on a harmonic riff and other subtle guitars in between the explosive chorus, a formula that stretches its entire length and doesn't quite wear out its welcome, though Caleb Followill repeatedly urging that "she's gonna have my baby" is a little disconcerting. "Charmer," then, is the

opposite. Accentuated every two measures with a guttural scream and fully dependent on the bass, it's very much a throwback to late 1980s grunge—it would fit right in on a Pixies album. "On Call," the first single, shows off Caleb's vocal ability, and though it's not very complex musically, it at least gets you nodding your head with the insistent bass line. These days

Kings Of Leon sounds less like the southern rock of their first two albums and more like the post-punk-influenced New York bands Interpol and the Strokes, at times. This album as a whole is more diverse—"Black Thumbnail" is blues-influenced, but not so much that it can't fully rock out in the chorus, "My Party" is almost a dance-punk

tune with its eighth-note guitars and steady hi-hat, and the strummed guitar that is central to "Fans" gives the song a summery, relaxed feel.

Some of the mid-album tracks are more like filler, though, such as "Ragoo" and the dragging ballad "The Runner."

Kings Of Leon made a daring move in releasing an album nearly an hour in length, where both of their first two albums were closer to the thirty-five-minute mark, so there must be some tracks worth skipping. A leaner album would certainly fit them well, and this one is very top-heavy.

"Camaro," however, picks up the pace, and "Arizona" is a pleasant enough closer, riding on a smooth chord progression and mostly used for soaring solos, but otherwise making no profound statement.

I think Kings Of Leon can do better if they trim their album down to something more manageable—this record will probably be more of a source for mix-tapes, since it has a few standouts, rather than being consistent in quality. This effort may not have anything like "The Bucket," but it's got a few possible hits of its own.

★★★★★
3 stars out of 5



MBA Service Club Constitution...Updated

Below is the official constitution
of the MBA Service Club.



ARTICLE 1. PURPOSE

The Service Club at Montgomery Bell Academy shall be an extracurricular organization, which strives to serve the school and the surrounding community in all possible facets of endeavor. The club shall make its services available to all activities deemed necessary by its members, the Headmaster, and the advisor of the club.

ARTICLE 2. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the club shall consist of students from the four upper classes of the school interested in service, of good character, and possessing leadership potential. Anyone in the High School with ten hours of service is considered a member of the Club. The Service Club Executive Council shall consist of all the Officers and Project Leaders. The juniors with ten most hours are eligible to run for office.

ARTICLE 3. OFFICERS

The Service Club officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer from the senior class,

and two Sergeants-at-Arms from the junior class. These officers shall be duly elected by a majority vote of the members of the club. These elections shall be held every year during early May.

ARTICLE 4. POWERS OF THE OFFICERS

The officers have the power to preside over the meetings, and all of their decisions concerning meeting procedure shall be honored. They also have the power to call meetings and designate project leaders.

ARTICLE 5. APPROVAL AND AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the membership. All amendments and bylaws to this Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Executive council in a *bona fide* meeting.

ARTICLE 6. MOTTO

The official motto of the Service Club at Montgomery Bell Academy shall be: "There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow men."—(Walter Ruether)

Revised May 1982

Revised May 1990

Revised May 1999

Revised December 2006

Disturbia Impresses and Shia LaBeouf Acts

By Alec McGuffey
Editor-in-Chief

If you have a little brother or sister who watches Disney Channel or if you were ever enthralled by *Smart Guy* or *Hannah Montana* (hopefully not the latter), you may remember a little "actor" named Shia

to three months of house arrest after popping his Spanish teacher in the eye. With nothing better to do, he begins spying on all of the neighbors with the help of his stereotypical Asian friend (think *Short Round* from *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*). The two of them, along with a sexy new neighborhood hottie, become

trying to cope with the loss of her husband (which is incidentally also the reason Shia gave his teacher a shiner).

The first 30 minutes of the film lull the viewer into a sense of ease, making us forget that we are, in fact, watching a thriller. Once the scares start, however, they don't stop until the film's suspense-filled climax. Honestly, I haven't been more frightened in a movie since *The Ring*, and that's saying a lot. The audience really feels pity for Shia and, thus, understandably freaks out more when he is in danger (the same holds true for Carrie-Anne and *Short Round* 2.0).

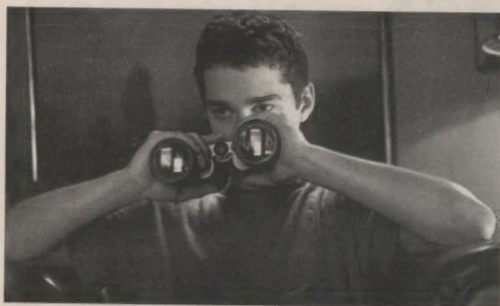
While *Disturbia* plays off of many genre clichés, such as the quiet but potentially crazy next-door neighbor, the hot "I just moved here" love interest, and secret chambers galore, its director, D.J. Caruso, who makes his feature film debut here, is

able to put clever twists on many old conventions. Around this time of year, it gets very difficult to choose what to see, as Hollywood releases dozens upon dozens of blockbusters and innumerable pieces of worthless garbage. However, I suggest forgoing the other worthy options (cough *Wild Hogs* cough) and checking out this sure-to-be sleeper hit.

4 Shia's out of 5

Other new flicks
worth seeing:

Hot Fuzz, The Invisible,
The Host, and
The Condemned (not really)



Shia creepily spies on his neighbors

Labeouf, star of *Even Stevens*. Chances are you may even remember him as the quintessential "tough-kid sidekick" in *Constantine* or *I Robot*. What nobody expected, however, is that he would have the acting skills to carry the well-written, tech-filled thriller *Disturbia*. Well, he does. And very convincingly at that.

Disturbia tells the relatively simple story of a good kid who is sentenced

obsessed with trying to prove that the reclusive man living next door (David Morse) is in fact an infamous serial killer. Morse actually does a good job of portraying the sketchy neighbor and succeeded in freaking me out just about every time he showed up on screen. Carrie-Anne Moss rounds out the cast with a passable portrayal of Shia's mother who is

Grindhouse Offends and Entertains

By Jackson Bull
Staff Writer

Forget character development; forget a sensible plotline; forget ethical boundaries that Christian leaders and Dr. Phil set for society.

Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino team up to create a grindhouse of two feature-length films that does just that. From a machine-gun leg to a container of testicles to a half-hour long car chase where a bad-dude Kurt Russell is terrorizing a group of hot girls just for the fun of it, *Grindhouse* contains all of the juicy entertainment that most traditional films today lack. Oh, yeah, and did I mention sex?

Thank goodness that Rodriguez's *Planet Terror* is featured in a grindhouse, because Mr. Rodriguez's poor dialogue would never have earned the story's top-notch reviews that it has been receiving since the release date. In his defense, though, Rodriguez makes up for his poor screenwriting ability with stunning visual effects and half-naked, sexy women engaging in gory situations.

The movie starts off with the very sexy Rose McGowan dancing, or "Go-Go" dancing, around a stripper pole on stage with almost nothing on. Along with the sexual content, Lt. Muldoon (Bruce Willis) makes an intimidating performance as he threatens to cut of Abby's (Naveen Andrews) testicles. Throughout the whole feature, Rodriguez maximizes his budget to make sure that the audience's stomach is turned upside down, especially with the make-up he uses to create the zombies. Once one sees this, it will be quite difficult to forget

other scenes, such as where a zombie pops a giant pimple, and blood and guts explode on the victim's face.

The second feature, Quentin Tarantino's *Death Proof*, is not as intense as Rodriguez's *Planet Terror*, for *Death Proof* is much more dialogue oriented.



Kurt Russell's intimidating wheels

Tarantino's specialty is creating casual conversations which may seem useless and barren, but one must read between the lines to accumulate its full value.

These raw but amusing conversations strengthen the character development and leave more room for hardcore action scenes, which include Stuntman Mike, played by a mean Kurt Russell, terrorizing some hot teenage girls using his "death proof," 1969 Dodge Challenger. As this classic vehicle is cruising full speed toward these innocent girls, that very instant when the two cars meet is repeated four times, and with each crash the camera focuses on a different girl in the car to display how each girl is mutilated as a result of the impact.

I highly recommend going to the theatre and seeing this critically-acclaimed, popcorn movie of the year. It is definitely a pair of films that will go down in history, cinematic history that is.

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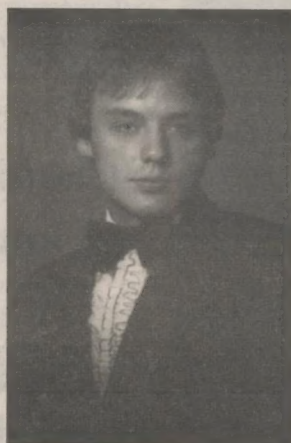
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Which current MBA Faculty Members are pictured below?

*Answers at the bottom
of the page.*



A.



B.



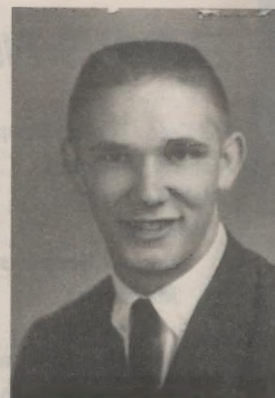
C.



D.



E.



F.

More yearbook photos from the past in the next issue!

A- Dr. Batten; B- Dr. Clark; C- Mr. Caldwell;
D- Mr. Gaither; E- Mr. Klausner; F- Mr. Tillman